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Washington, D.C. 20505

20 SEP 1982

The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Mineta:

The enclosure to my letter of 29 June 1982, contained detailed responses to your questions regarding the joint CIA/DIA SAFE Project. As I mentioned, there were several options being considered for redirecting the SAFE Project. As a result of an internal audit, serious deficiencies were found to exist in the program. Following the audit, the program managers for both the government and the contractor were replaced. Subsequently, the program office was directed to develop a proposal that would lead to correction of the major deficiencies identified in the audit.

On 1 September 1982, the Director of Central Intelligence approved the redirection of the SAFE Project. The redirection is predicated on three important points. First, the new approach recognizes that SAFE's requirements are strongly related to commercial developments in the areas of data base systems, electronic mail, and office automation. Furthermore, software currently available within the government is also applicable to the user's needs. While not all of SAFE's requirements can be fulfilled by these sources, it is the intent of the implementation approach to minimize any software development and the associated risks by purchasing, modifying, and integrating available software.

Second, and similarly fundamental to the redirection, was the selection of a hardware and system software environment that would allow us the widest possible access to software products from the market place. To this end, we have selected IBM-compatible configurations for both CIA and DIA.

Third, the redirection approach provides for the delivery, beginning March 1983, of an early capability to part of the intelligence analyst population of both the CIA and DIA. This will allow the analysts to have early access to several important functions in support of their work and will become the foundation on which the system will be built.

On the whole, we believe that the SAFE Project, as redirected, provides a more manageable approach, with significantly less risk, for meeting the needs of the intelligence analyst.



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Thank you for your continued interest in the SAFE Project, and if I can be of further assistance, please contact me directly.

Sincerely,

/S/ John N. McMahon

John N. McMahon  
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

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